



## **Gender Identity Hate Crime Code**

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### **Position Statement:**

*The State of Iowa Youth Advisory Council supports legislation to incorporate gender identity into Iowa Hate Crime Code.*

### **Position**

It is the position of the State of Iowa Youth Advisory Council, the voice of the Iowa's youth, in support of incorporating gender identity under the protection of the Iowa Hate Crime Statute.

### **Rationale**

Transgender individuals live with the constant risk of violence simply because of their gender identity. Hate violence against transgender youth is on the rise. [1] LGBTQ hate violence increased approximately 20% since 2014, and 67% of all LGBTQ hate violence were aimed at transgender individuals. Of all the survivor reports the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs has collected, only 22% are transgender cases, indicating that the violence faced by transgender individuals is especially deadly.

[2] In 2013, the Federal Bureau of Investigation compiled hate crime statistics, revealing that almost 30 transgender hate crimes happened across the country. The difference between hate violence and hate crime is that the latter is prosecuted by the law, so this FBI report only displays the cases that happened in states that protect gender identity in hate crime laws.

[3] As of December 20th, 2016, 14 states have passed legislation to incorporate gender identity into hate crime laws, which includes our Midwest neighbors, Illinois and Missouri.

### **Recommended Action**

Hate violence on the basis of gender identity is an increasing threat to the security. As a principled society, we cannot allow more violence rooted in hatred for those that are different from us. By simply amending the Hate Crime Statute to include 'gender identity', law enforcement will be able to prosecute hate violence as hate crimes rather than felonies.

Iowa has a special progressive history since the 1850's as one of the first states to legalize interracial marriage, one of the first to desegregate schools, and one of the first to approve marriage equality. Now, in 2017, Iowa has an opportunity to protect people from deadly violence just by including two words into an already established law. We hope you will consider this position and pass this piece of legislation in order to protect and educate the youth of Iowa.

### **Sources**

[1] - Waters, Emily et al. "Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, and HIV Affected Hate Violence in 2015." National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs, 2015.

[2] - "Latest Hate Crime Statistics Report Released." *FBI*, FBI, Aug. 2014, [www.fbi.gov/news/stories/latest-hate-crime-statistics-report-released](http://www.fbi.gov/news/stories/latest-hate-crime-statistics-report-released).

[3] - "Maps of State Laws & Policies." *Human Rights Campaign*, [www.hrc.org/state\\_maps](http://www.hrc.org/state_maps).